

Western Ecological Research Center <http://www.werc.usgs.gov>

## San Diego Field Station

Southern California is a region characterized by both unparalleled natural biodiversity and an enormous human population whose continued growth and expansion threaten many native species and habitats. As a result, this region has more endangered and threatened species than any other area in the continental United States, and once extensive natural communities have been reduced to mere remnants. It is thus essential to manage biodiversity in remaining habitats while providing opportunities for other appropriate uses of the land.

The San Diego Field Station, created in 1992, is located on the campus of San Diego State University (SDSU). Field station scientists collaborate with faculty in the Biology and Geography departments in conducting research related to endangered species ecology, population genetics, conservation planning, and preserve design and assessment. They supervise graduate students in vertebrate ecology and evolutionary biology, and offer traineeships providing experience in conservation research.

Scientists at the San Diego Field Station conduct research on the ecology and management of sensitive vertebrate species in southern California and Mexico, encompassing a broad range of habitats including riparian, coastal sage scrub, chaparral, and desert. In so doing, the field station supports the information needs of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Department of Defense, and other clients in the region to develop sound management and monitoring plans, and evaluate the effectiveness of conservation strategies in preserving regional biodiversity.

Some examples of ongoing research include population and life-history studies of native birds, reptiles, and amphibians with an emphasis on endangered species; the effectiveness of riparian restoration in providing suitable habitat for wildlife; and the impact of reserve design on vertebrate diversity.



C. Brown

### Science Expertise

**Robert N. Fisher, Ph.D.**, Research Biologist, Research Professor of Biology, SDSU

- Herpetology, including declining species
- Conservation biology
- Monitoring program design for vertebrates
- Reserve design

**Barbara E. Kus, Ph.D.**, Research Ecologist, Research Professor of Biology, SDSU

- Avian ecology
- Endangered species management and conservation
- Community ecology of riparian birds
- Riparian habitat restoration

### For more information, contact:

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